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AN ANSWER TO THE REASONS

For Making the

River *DOUGLAS* Navigable.

Reaſon I. *THAT it will ſave Land-Carriage, for near* 20 *Miles, of Coals, Canell, Slate, Stone, Flags, Timber, and other heavy Goods, as Lead, Coperas,* &c.

Anſwer. It's very well known that there's no Part of *Lancaſhire* that is 20 Miles diſtant from Coals, or the moſt uſeful Commodities mention'd in this Article, or half that Diſtance.

Reaſon II. *That other Parts of the Country, ſtill more remote, which could not have theſe Commodities, (though much wanted) becauſe of the exceſſive Price by Land-Carriage, may, by this means, be ſupply'd.*

Anſwer. There's no Part of this Country more remote than 20 Miles from the moſt uſeful of theſe Commodities; nor, indeed, from any of them (*Canell* excepted) which can be ſupply'd cheaper, by means of this River's being made navigable, than they are at preſent.

Reaſon III. *That all Sorts of Merchants Goods, as Cotton, Wooll,* Iriſh *Yarn, Hides, Tallow, Tin, Braſs, Tobacco, Sugars,* &c. *will hereby come up the ſaid River at much eaſier Charge, to ſupply the inland Towns of* Mancheſter, Boulton, Bury, Ratchdale, *&c.*

Anſwer. *Warrington* is exactly the ſame Diſtance from *Mancheſter* as *Wigan* is, and has an open navigable River comes up to it, call'd *Mercy*, which carries Veſſels of a conſiderable Burden that come directly from *Liverpool*; from whence the greateſt Part (if not all) of the Commodities, ſpecify'd in this Article, muſt be brought.

Reaſon IV. *Burnt Lime is now carry'd near* 20 *Miles by Land towards the Head of the River, for Building and Improvement of Ground; whereas Lime-ſtone might be brought up this River to the Coal, and there burnt at a ſmall Charge, to the Benefit of all that Part of the Country, and particularly of the Land-Owners on each Side of the River.*

Anſwer. There's no Place, towards the Head of the River, to which Lime is carry'd near 20 Miles by Land, that will be much advantag'd by the Methods propos'd in this Article; for if the Lime-ſtone propos'd to be brought up and burnt near the Head of this River, is to pay that heavy Duty of Tunnage propos'd by this Act, it's probable there will be no great Quantity brought up.

Reaſon V. *The Fords of the River* Douglas *and* Rible, *which alter and remove frequently by the Tides, and the dangerous Sands over which Carts and Carriages muſt now paſs, in carrying the Goods aforeſaid, do frequently occaſion the Loſs of Men, Horſes, and Carriages; but ſuch Accidents will be hereby prevented.*

Anſwer. As to the Fords of the River *Rible*, it's plain, that the River *Douglas* being made navigable, will by no Means prevent the Inconveniencies mention'd in this Article; and, it's well known, there are no dangerous Fords to paſs over the River *Douglas*.

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Reaſon VI. *The Navigation of this River will be an Employment for Sea-men in the Time of Peace, and a Nurſery to breed up others for future Service; beſides, many poor Labourers will be employ'd in making the ſaid River navigable.*

Anſwer. A Navigation of this Sort cannot be accounted a Nurſery for Seamen; nor can a few Towers of flat-bottom Boats and Coal-Barges be of any very great Service in the Navy.

Reaſon VII. *The Highways, which are upon a deep Clay, are very much cut by the Land-Carriage of the Goods and Commodities aforeſaid, have been a great Expence to the Land-Owners, and, notwithſtanding, are ſcarce paſſable in a wet Seaſon; whereas theſe Inconveniencies to the Roads will be prevented by the making this River navigable.*

Anſwer. It's the Cuſtom of this Part of the Country, to carry moſt of their Goods on Horſeback, the Cauſeways being generally very well pav'd, which is a great Preſervation to the Highways; and, it's apprehended, that the Roads, which lie near the River, will be much more cut, if this Navigation is carry'd on, than they are at preſent; becauſe moſt of the Coal and Canell Mines lie at ſome Diſtance from the River, and thoſe Commodities muſt be carry'd in Carts and heavy Carriages to the Banks of it, in order to be put on Board.

Note, It appears, for the Reaſons above, that this Navigation will in no wiſe tend to the publick Good; but is calculated purely for the private Intereſt and Advantage of the Undertakers, and a few Perſons who deal in Coals and Canell.

AN
ANSWER
TO THE
REASONS
For making the River Dougl*as*
Navigable.

To the Honourable the Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes in Parliament aſſembled.